THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Thursday, the 5th February 1959.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF DR. V. K. JOHN, MEMBER OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is with deep regret that I have to report to the House the sudden death of Dr. V. K. John, a Member of this House, on the night of 17th December 1958 at his residence in Nungambakkam, Madras.

Born on July 20, 1893, Dr. V. K. John had his education at Tripunithura High School, Kerala State, and later at the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, and Christian College, Madras. He graduated in Law at Madras and set up practice at Ernakulam for a few years. He then proceeded to England for further studies where he was called to the Middle Temple, London. He passed the Bar Examination with first class honours and obtained the Doctorate of Laws in the University of London. He set up practice at Madras and within a few years built up a very lucrative practice. He was elected to the Bar Council, Madras, in 1938. He was elected to the Legislative Council in 1946 and continued to be a Member till 1950. He became the Leader of the Opposition in the pre-Constitution Council. He was returned to the Legislative Council in 1953 from the Assembly Constituency and again in 1954 from the Graduates Constituency. He was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Council till recently.

He played a notable part as a Member of this House and took a very keen and active part in the discussions, debates and deliberations in the House. He was a fearless critic. His sudden and sad death is indeed a loss to this House.

I now, therefore, move the following Condolence Resolution :—

'This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Dr. V. K. John, a Member of this House, and conveys its profound sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.'

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The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, I rise to associate the Government with the sentiments of sorrow which you have expressed on the demise of one of our very valued colleagues, late Dr. John. I came to know him as a junior at the Madras Bar and I had the privilege of appearing with him as well as against him. Dr. John brought to bear on the work which he undertook a stubborn independence of thought and he always impressed those before whom he had to make his points. As a legislator, Dr. John was of a very high and superior class. He studied the papers thoroughly and his interventions were always fruitful. On occasions when he had been bitterly critical of the Government, he always sat down with a smile which wiped out all that he had said in the course of his speech. The Government always appreciated the strong, effective and forceful presentation of the several points of view which Dr. John always did before this House.

Sir, this House has suffered a very great loss in the demise of Dr. John and I associate the Government with the motion which you have just now moved.

Sri K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with a deep sense of sorrow that I associate myself with the motion that has been made by you. The passing away of Dr. John is a great loss to the Council, especially to this side. Apart from being one of our leaders at the Bar, he was also an asset to public life of the country. He brought to bear upon his duties a very singular characteristic which marked all his activities. He was free from any prejudices, any parochialism, any communalism or even regionalism. Though a citizen originally of the Kerala State, he later became a citizen of Madras and continued his devoted loyalty to the Madras State. He forgot entirely that he was a Malayalee and he associated himself entirely with all the activities of the citizens of our State. Apart from being a public worker in political life, he also contributed a great deal to social work in our State—that may not be known to many. He was President of a Welfare Association which was started for the purpose of giving relief to the poor on various occasions and he did very good work there. He parted also very generously with his money, his hard-earned money as a lawyer. A most distinguishing characteristic of Dr. John was that he brought to bear upon his work very hard industry, thinking and also powers of expression. All these three were markedly noticed in his work in the Legislative Council. I had the privilege to be associated with him in the year 1952 and we had frequent consultations on many matters. I always found that he had a grip of all the facts bearing on any particular problem. He worked hard and wanted to know the realities before he presented his case. Of course, he used very strong language in his criticisms on certain occasions, but it left no heart-burnings behind. He was very cordial in his relations with the Members of the Treasury Bench

and he used to crack jokes with them. He was a lovable personality and a loyal friend and his death is a great loss to this Council. On many occasions we shall remember him with affection and gratitude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you all to stand in silence for a few minutes and pass the Resolution unanimously.

The Resolution was passed *nem. con.*, all the Members standing in silence for a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now adjourn the House for the day as a mark of respect to the late Dr. V. K. John and the House will meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow.

The House then adjourned.

